

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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## Office of the State Fire Marshal

**Date:** May 8, 2006  
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### Arson Awareness Week – May 7-13, 2006

#### Wildland Arson Fires: Preparedness and Prevention

Acting State Fire Marshal Mike Matlick announced that May 7-13, 2006, is Arson Awareness Week. This year's theme is "Wildfire Arson – Preparedness and Prevention." The United States Fire Administration (USFA) and the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) are the official sponsors.

Matlick went on to report that Washington State fire departments responded to 748 intentionally set fires in 2005. This equals two arson fires per day. Of the total 748 intentionally set fires, 267 or 36% were wildland fires.

Arson and other uncontrolled wildland fires pose a serious threat to lives, property and natural resources in our rural and suburban communities. Conditions are particularly hazardous in the wildland-urban interface where structures and other human developments meet with forests and grasslands. Preventing and preparing for wildland arson are important steps in protecting lives and minimizing property loss.

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